RG104 E-1 Box 148

Dr. Walter Hay,
243 State St.

Chicago, Sept. 15. 187-.

Hon. Daniel M. Fox.
Superintendent of the Mint
Philadelphia
Pa.

Dear Sir

Desiring to perpetuate the memory of an important incident in local, if not in national, history I enclose to you, by Express to-day, for deposit in the collection of Medals and Coins in the United States Mint, a Medal struck, as indicated by the inscription, to commemorate the fire which destroyed the City of Chicago in 1871.

The Medal is associated with two historical incidents. viz. the capture of Richmond - one of the closing incidents

RG104 E-1 Box 148

of the late War, on which occasion the Court-House bell was broken from violent ringing. and subsequently preserved in its broken state for the associations of the accident, until the second incident i.e. the fire, in which it was partially melted.

The bell was purchased, exhumed from the ruins, and remelted to be cast into little bells. (trinkets), a few medals were struck at the time and distributed privately. one of these I have the pleasure to send to you.

An Error is apparent in the date, in the inscription i.e. "Oct. 8-9. 1871" - which should be Oct. 9-10 1871. The fire having commenced at 9.30 P.M. Sunday Oct. 9. and continued its ravages until Monday Oct. 10 at about 5 P.M.

Very respectfully Yrs

Walter Hay

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 148

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